SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

SEPT.
NO. 184

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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BATMAN

FOR 13 *JITTERY* NIGHTS
THE *BAT-SIGNAL*
BLAZED IN THE SKY...

FOR 13 DESPERATE DAYS
THE *HOT-LINE*
REMAINED UNANSWERED!

WHERE ARE
BATMAN & ROBIN?

NOT EVEN *THEY* KNOW!

FOR 13 DAYS AND 13 NIGHTS, NOBODY IN *GOTHAM CITY* KNEW THE WHEREABOUTS OF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*! WERE THEY ON A CASE?

BUT WHAT CASE COULD BE SO IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE *MASKED MAN-HUNTERS* FROM APPEARING IN PUBLIC? HAD SOME DISASTER OVERTAKEN THEM? WERE THEY TRAPPED? *HELPLESS? DYING?* VICTIMS OF SOME DIABOLICAL SCHEME OF THE UNDER-WORLD--AND UNABLE TO SAVE THEMSELVES?

BATMAN®

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

MYSTERY of the MISSING MANHUNTERS!

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WORRIED CREASES FURROW POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S BROW AS HE STARES UPWARD AT A BAT-SIGNAL THAT HAS GLITTERED UNANSWERED FOR 13 NIGHTS IN THE SKY ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...

WHERE ARE BATMAN AND ROBIN? WHERE? WHERE?

FOR 13 DAYS IN THE BATCAVE, THE HOT-LINE PHONE GLOWS-- WITH NO RESPONSE...

IN THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION ABOVE THE BATCAVE, THE HOT-LINE PHONE RINGS INCESSANTLY WITH ONLY AUNT HARRIET THERE TO COMPLAIN...

THERE IT GOES AGAIN--THAT SAME MYSTERIOUS CALL WITH NOBODY EVER AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE!

R-R-R-R-I-N-G!

AND IN THE BATMOBILE, YET ANOTHER HOT-LINE PHONE SCREAMS ITS MESSAGE! BUT-- NOW-- AT LONG LAST--AFTER A 13 DAY-AND-NIGHT SILENCE, A FAMILIAR GLOVED HAND REACHES FORWARD...

I'LL TAKE THAT, ROBIN!

BATMAN! WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT YOU FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS! WHERE IN BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN?

I DON'T KNOW, COMMISSIONER! I--JUST-- DON'T-- KNOW!

MOMENTS LATER, AS A FINGER STABS THE ELECTRONIC CONTROL BUTTON IN THE CAR, CAMOUFLAGED DOORS OPEN AND THE **BATCAVE** BECKONS...

THE COMMISSIONER WAS PLENTY SHAKEN UP, **ROBIN**!

HOLY JITTERS! HE'S SHAKEN UP? HOW ABOUT **US? WE** WERE THE ONES WHO'VE BEEN "GONE"--AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR WHY!!

OUR **CONSCIOUS** MINDS DON'T REMEMBER-- BUT OUR **SUB-CONSCIOUS** MINDS DO! WE'RE GOING TO LEARN WHERE WE WERE, **ROBIN**--AND WHAT WE WERE DOING!

I GET IT! YOU'RE GOING TO GO **MIND-DIVING**!

THIS HYPNOTISM DISK-- WHEN ROTATED AT THE PROPER SPEED--WILL PUT ME IN A TRANCE ALMOST INSTANTLY! WE'VE BOTH BEEN TRAINED IN ITS USE! SO GET TO WORK--

RIGHT! **DOC ROBIN** WILL HANDLE THIS! JUST RELAX-- STARE AT THE DISK--AND PUT EVERYTHING ELSE OUT OF YOUR MIND--

SLEEP, **BATMAN**, SLEEP... AND GO BACK IN TIME... BACK, BACK TO THE NIGHT WHEN WE WERE FINISHING UP OUR PATROL...

YES... YES... FINISHING OUR PATROL... I REMEMBER...

"THE NIGHT HAD BEEN QUIET... NO SIGN OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY--AND THEN LIKE A PISTOL SHOT..."

AAAGUGGHH!

BATMAN-- LOOK! UP THERE...

"OUT FROM AN OPEN WINDOW OF A TALL BUILDING A MAN CAME HURTLING ... "

YIIIIIII!

QUICK, ROBIN! OPERATION-- WINDOW-FALL! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

"MY FEET HIT THE METAL PLATFORM OF THE BAT-SPRING EJECTOR IN THE CAR-TRUNK JUST AS YOU PULLED THE LEVER, ROBIN ... "

GOT TO SHOOT MY ARMS FORWARD-- UNLOCK THE SUCTION DISC CUPS WIRED TO THE UNDERSIDE OF MY WRISTS ...

"OUT FROM UNDER MY UNIFORM LEAPED POWERFUL GRIPPERS AS THE BAT-SPRING EJECTED ME HIGH ABOVE THE CITY STREETS ... "

GOT TO INTERCEPT HIS FALL!

"I RAMMED THAT WALL JUST AS THE MAN FELL OVER MY SHOULDER! THE GRIPPERS CAUGHT--AND HELD! I CLUNG THERE, EVERY MUSCLE STRUTTED ... "

THUNNK!

"NEXT MOMENT YOU HURLED THE **BATARANG** WITH **BAT-ROPE** ATTACHED AROUND A STANCHION ON THE ROOF..."

"IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY THEN TO ROPE-SLIDE TO THE GROUND WITH MY BURDEN.."

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, **BATMAN! SLIPPERY SAM LORENZO** WILL NEVER FORGET IT!

HOLY WANTED POSTERS! **SLIPPERY SAM LORENZO**--THE BRAIN BEHIND **ROBBERY INCORPORATED!** WE'VE BEEN HUNTING YOU A LONG TIME, SAM!

MY OWN GANG HAS BEEN HUNTING ME TOO, IT SEEMS! I BEEN SLIPPIN' UP LATELY IN PLANNIN' CRIMES-- SO THE SYNDICATE CHIEFS GAVE MY SECOND BANANA **LEFTY WRIGHT** THE HIGH-SIGN TO DUMP ME! ONE OF MY OWN BOYS PUSHED ME OUTTA THAT WINDOW!

YOU'RE OKAY NOW, LORENZO! COME ON-- WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION AND--

OH NO YOU WON'T! MY LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL IN ANY JAIL IN THE CITY! I ONCE WORKED OUT A PLAN TO GET RID OF ANY OF MY IMPRISONED GANG WHO MIGHT SQUEAL--AN' I KNOW **LEFTY** WOULD USE MY OWN PLAN TO BUMP ME OFF TOO, JAIL OR NO JAIL!

HERE IT COMES, **BATMAN**-- GRAB HOLD!

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I'LL BE SAFE--AND THAT'S WITH YOU AN' **ROBIN!** TELL YOU WHAT! KEEP ME WITH YOU AND I'LL SING ABOUT THE ROBBERY LEFTY'S GONNA PULL TONIGHT! CATCH HIM--AND YOU CAN SETTLE WITH ME LATER!

I DON'T MAKE DEALS WITH CROOKS--BUT I ALSO CAN'T LET LEFTY GET AWAY WITH A CRIME! OKAY--TELL ME WHERE HE IS--

HE'S ROBBIN' THE **TEMPLE OF TINY TREASURES** RIGHT NOW! ALL I ASK IS YOU NAB HIM IN FRONT OF ME! I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM NOBODY DOUBLE-CROSSES SLIPPERY SAM LORENZO WITHOUT PAYIN' FOR IT!

"MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE **TEMPLE**-- WHERE LEFTY WRIGHT AND HIS FELLOW MOBSTERS WERE LOOTING MINIATURE ART TREASURES.."

BATMAN-- AN' **ROBIN!**

HOW'D THEY KNOW WHERE WE WERE?!

ROBIN AND I HAVE OUR OWN SPY SYSTEM!

"I CLEARED THE WAY WITH A SLAMMING LEAP..."

YOU'RE IN MY WAY-- GET LOST!

WHAAK!

RACK UP SOME THRILLS FOR YOURSELF AS **BATMAN** RACKS UP THESE MEMBERS OF **ROBBERY INCORPORATED!** STORY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

6

HOLY HOROSCOPE!

The **STARS** spell **DANGER** for **SUPERMAN** and **BATMAN!**

A WEIRD NEW VILLAIN, **DR. ZODIAC,** USES THE MYSTIC POWER OF ASTROLOGY TO PUT THE WHAMMY ON THE **WORLD'S FINEST TEAM!**

WORLD'S FINEST
STARRING BATMAN AND SUPERMAN
SUPERMAN! BATMAN! I, DOCTOR ZODIAC, HAVE READ YOUR DESTINY IN THE STARS! I PREDICT THAT IF YOU DARE TO STOP THIS CRIME--YOU WILL DIE!
"THE FATAL FORECASTS OF DOCTOR ZODIAC!"
HOLY HOROSCOPE! THAT ASTROLOGER'S PREDICTIONS ALWAYS COME TRUE! HOW CAN WE FIGHT THE SUPERNATURAL?
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

in the SEPT. **WORLD'S FINEST** ON SALE JULY 26th

"MY BODY HIT THE TOP OF A DISPLAY CASE AND SLID ALONG IT AS IF IT WERE SLIPPERY ICE! I RAMMED INTO THE HOODLUMS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE COUNTER WITH THE SPEED OF A BOWLING BALL ..."

STRR--IKE!

POW!

SOK!

YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY OF THESE SOCKS AS YOU WANT-- FREE OF CHARGE!

ZAPP!

"I FINISHED UP FEET-FIRST, TAKING EVERYONE BEFORE ME..!

QUITE A "FEAT," HUH?

WHUNNK!

"OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE I SAW YOU HIT ANOTHER DISPLAY COUNTER -- AND A MOBSTER'S JAW--AT THE SAME TIME..."

YOU READY TO KNUCKLE UNDER, FELLA?

POW!

SET 'EM UP IN THE OTHER ALLEY! I'M BOWLING 'EM OVER TONIGHT!

THWAAPP!

"OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, SLIPPERY SAM LORENZO WAS ALL SMILES AS THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE CAME CLEARLY TO HIS EARS..."

FEED THE FISTS TO 'EM, **BATMAN** AN' **ROBIN**! TEACH THOSE PUNKEROOS A LESSON!

T APLE OF TINY TREASURES

ZONK!

WHAK!

ZOPP!

"SUDDENLY HIS GRIN OF DELIGHT WAS WIPED FROM HIS LIPS AS..."

I GOTTA GET OUT OF-- **HUH?** SLIPPERY SAM-- STILL **ALIVE?** SO THAT'S HOW **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** KNEW WHERE WE WERE ROBBING!

LEFTY WRIGHT! YOU-- GOT-- AWAY!

I DID--BUT WITHOUT A GUN! OR YOU WOULDN'T BE ALIVE RIGHT NOW! BUT I CAN PAY YA BACK FOR SQUEALIN'-- LIKE THIS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

"LEFTY HAD TIME FOR JUST ONE BLOW..."

I HEAR **BATMAN** AN' **ROBIN** HIGHBALLIN' IT THIS WAY! I GOTTA MAKE SOME TRACKS OF MY OWN OUTTA HERE!

"MOMENTS LATER, **ROBIN**, YOU BROUGHT SLIPPERY SAM AROUND..."

:Whew: THAT AMMONIA'S PLENTY POWERFUL! IT WAS LEFTY WHO BELTED ME...

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON? **BATMAN** HERE! SEND SOME OFFICERS TO THE **TEMPLE OF TINY TREASURES** TO PICK UP A PACKAGE OF NO-GOODS!

"AS I HUNG UP..."

YOU DID YOUR JOB, **BATMAN**--I'LL DO MINE--TELL YOU ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT **ROBBERY INCORPORATED**! NAMES, DATES, CRIMES--THE WHOLE SET-UP! BUT YOU GOT TO KEEP ME PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES!

ALL RIGHT, SAM! **ROBIN** AND I WILL GUARD YOU! **ROBBERY INCORPORATED** HAS BEEN A THORN IN THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER IN **GOTHAM CITY** LONG ENOUGH!

"HALF AN HOUR LATER THE **BAT-MOBILE** WAS PARKED IN A CAVE NOT FAR FROM THE SEA, WHILE IN A LARGER CAVE ABOVE IT..."

WE'VE USED THIS CAVE BEFORE, WHICH EXPLAINS THE LAYOUT! TO MAKE SURE YOU'LL BE SAFE, EITHER **ROBIN** OR I WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE AT ALL TIMES!

I'M REMOVING THE TRANSISTORIZED TAPE RECORDER FROM MY UTILITY BELT--SO YOU CAN START SINGING--

I'M A MARKED MAN. THE WORD CAME DOWN TO GET ME--SO I'LL BRING THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION WITH ME WHEN I GO! THEY THINK I'M A HAS-BEEN--MORE "SLIP UP" THAN "SLIPPERY"--BUT I'LL SHOW 'EM!

WHILE YOU'RE SPILLING WHAT YOU KNOW--I'M GOING OUT AFTER LEFTY WRIGHT! THE SOONER WE PUT HIM BEHIND BARS, THE SOONER WE CAN GET YOU OFF OUR HANDS!

"THE BATMOBILE TRUNK HAS A SPECIAL COMPARTMENT CONTAINING MANY AND VARIED DISGUISES. AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES WITH A MAKE-UP KIT.."

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE GREG THE GYP WAS SEEN AROUND TOWN! I'LL START ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE TO FIND LEFTY WRIGHT...

"THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND NIGHTS WERE SPENT IN A FRUITLESS QUEST..."

I'VE HAD NO LUCK AT ALL-- AND WASTED HALF A WEEK! GOT TO START LOOKING ELSEWHERE-- AS SOMEONE ELSE!

"FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS I MADE THE ROUNDS OF GOTHAM CITY AS TOMMY THE TOUT.."

NO DICE HERE, EITHER! IT'S AS IF LEFTY'D BEEN LEFT AT THE STARTING GATE! BUT HE'S GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND!

"THE DAYS GREW INTO AN EVEN DOZEN. THEN ONE AFTERNOON, POSING AS CUEBALL CARSON, I STRUCK PAYDIRT..."

--AND WHEN I WAS IN CHI, I TEAMED UP WIT' TH' FATS MARR GANG...

THAT POOL SHARK IS GIVING ME THE FISH-EYE! HE MUST KNOW--JUST AS I DO--THAT THERE'S NO FATS MARR GANG IN CHICAGO! THIS IS WHERE THE ACTION IS! I'LL GIVE HIM TIME TO GO TELL LEFTY WRIGHT HIS SUSPICIONS ABOUT ME!

"A LITTLE LATER, AFTER LEAVING THE POOL HALL, AS CUEBALL CARSON I DROVE IN MY RENTED CAR TO THE SEA CAVES..."

LEFTY AND HIS MOB ARE HOT ON MY TRAIL! BUT I'VE GIVEN ROBIN INSTRUCTIONS TO HIDE SLIPPERY SAM--SO THE ONLY ONES LEFTY AND HIS BOYS WILL FIND HERE-- ARE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

"AND SO-- AS LEFTY WRIGHT AND THE STRONG-ARM BOYS OF ROBBERY INCORPORATED SHOWED UP IN THE SEA CAVE..."

THERE THEY ARE! THEY HAVE SLIPPERY SAM STASHED AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! GET 'EM!

EASY TO SAY, LEFTY!

BUT A TRIFLE DIFFICULT TO DO! ROBIN AND I ARE THE ONES WHO DO THE "GETTING"!

KR-AAK

SOCK!

EVEN BATMAN CAN'T FIGHT BULLETS--

"OUT OF THE DIMNESS OF THE CAVE YOU LEAPED, ROBIN-- CATCHING BULLETS ON THE THICK WOODEN SEAT OF A CRUDE CHAIR..."

BLAM!

BLAM

THWACK! THWACK!

I'VE NEVER RUN INTERFERENCE TO A COUPLE OF BULLETS BEFORE...

"NEXT INSTANT..."

HERE GOES OPERATION GUN-DROP!

KLONNK!

KLONNK!

SLEEPY BYE, FELLAS!

KRUNCH!

ZOK!

"BEHIND YOU, I WAS EXPLODING IN A FINAL FLARE-UP..."

THUNKK!

ZONK!

"I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST..."

A LEFT AND A RIGHT FOR--LEFTY WRIGHT!

WHAAP

YOU GOT 'EM ALL, BATMAN! I SURE ENJOYED EVERY SOCKO SECOND OF IT!

I'LL CALL POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON NOW ON THE HOT-LINE, ROBIN! WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH BEFORE BECAUSE I WANTED TO KEEP SLIPPERY SAM ALIVE! NOW THAT THE DANGER HAS BEEN REMOVED, I CAN TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE...

"AS I LIFTED THE HOT-LINE PHONE.."

OHH! ELECTRIC SHOCKS-- SHOOTING THROUGH US --

ZZZZ

ZZZZZ

"FROM THAT MOMENT--UNTIL NOW -- ROBIN, WE WERE STRICKEN WITH PARTIAL AMNESIA!"

UNKNOWN TO THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND BOY WONDER -- AT THAT MOMENT...

HA! HA! I DIDN'T SLIP UP HERE! WHEN ROBIN LEFT ME ALONE FOR A FEW MOMENTS, I RIGGED THE BATMOBILE TO KNOCK THEM COLD! BEFORE CLEARING OUT OF HERE, I'LL DESTROY THE TAPE RECORDINGS I GAVE ROBIN IN WHICH I SPILLED THE WORKS ABOUT ROBBERY INCORPORATED!

ZZZZ

ZZZZ

HAVING SEEN HOW BAT-MAN USED THE HOT-LINE PHONE TO CALL FOR THE POLICE, I USED IT TO TRIGGER THE ELECTRICITY SHOOTING ALL THROUGH THE BATMOBILE! NOW TO MAKE MY GETAWAY IN THE RENTED CAR BATMAN USED AS CUEBALL CARSON!

IN THE BATCAVE, AS ROBIN STOPS THE ROTATING HYP-NOTIC DISC...

WE CAN FILL IN THE REST OUR-SELVES! WE CHECKED THE BATMOBILE-- DISCONNECTED THE WIRES WITH WHICH SLIPPERY SAM ELECTRIFIED IT--AND DROVE HOMEWARD WHILE YOU REPAIRED THE HOT-LINE PHONE!

SURE! AND WHEN IT RANG YOU ANSWERED IT TO TELL POLICE COM-MISSIONER GORDON WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE WE'D BEEN!

WELL, WE KNOW ALL ABOUT IT NOW -- SO LET'S ROUND UP LEFTY WRIGHT AND HIS MOBSTERS BACK AT THE SEA CAVE!

WHAT ABOUT SLIPPERY SAM? AFTER ELECTRIFY-ING THE BATMOBILE HE CERTAINLY WASN'T GOING TO HANG AROUND THE CAVE!

ROBIN'S QUESTION IS ANSWERED WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SEA CAVES...

BATMAN-- LOOK! SOMEBODY BOOBY-TRAPPED THE CAR YOU USED AS CUEBALL CARSON! SLIPPERY SAM TRIED TO USE IT TO MAKE HIS GETAWAY-- AND IT BLEW UP ON HIM!

POOR SAM! HE "SLIPPED UP" FOR THE LAST TIME! LET'S SEE WHAT LEFTY WRIGHT KNOWS ABOUT THIS!

I DIDN'T SLIP UP, BATMAN! BEFORE I WENT INTO THE CAVE AFTER YOU, I SET THE BOOBY-TRAP TO GET YOU! EVEN IF YOU CAPTURED ME, I INTENDED TO WIN OUT BY BLOWING YOU UP! BUT SLIPPERY SAM SAVED YOUR LIFE BY DOUBLE-CROSSING YOU AND TRYING TO ESCAPE!

AFTER THE GANG MEMBERS OF ROBBERY INCORPORATED HAVE BEEN JAILED...

I REMEMBER ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT SLIPPERY SAM LORENZO PUT ON THOSE RECORDING TAPES TO ENABLE US TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO WHAT'S LEFT OF ROBBERY INCORPORATED!

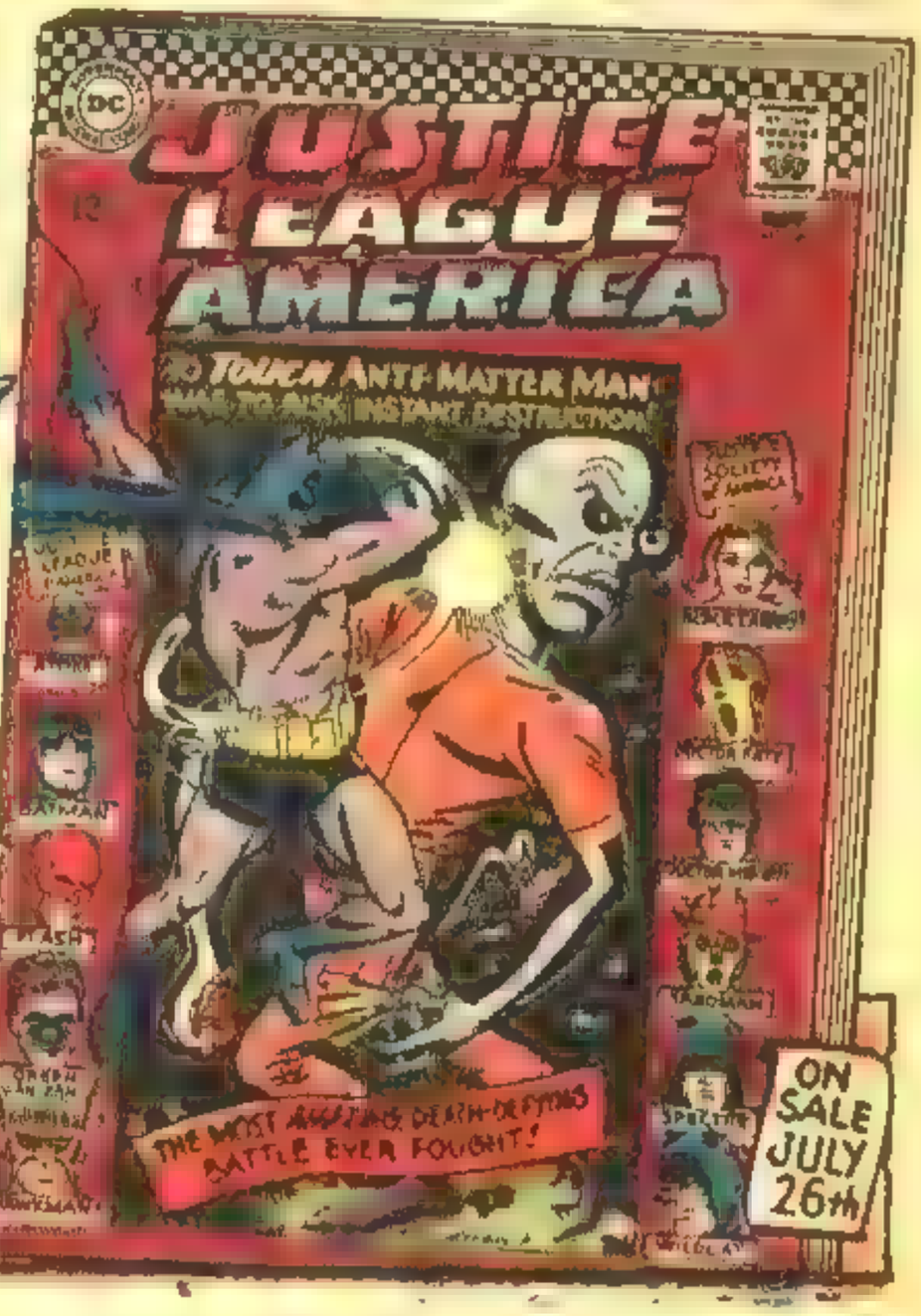
GOOD! GET IT ALL DOWN WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH IN YOUR MIND. IT'S OKAY FOR CROOKS TO SLIP UP-- BUT NOT FOR US!

The End

To TOUCH ANTI-MATTER MAN was to risk INSTANT DEATH!

YET THE GREATEST SUPER-HEROES OF TWO EARTHS GRIMLY FOUGHT A DEATH-DEFYING BATTLE AGAINST THEIR FANTASTIC FOE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE!

A JUSTICE LEAGUE-JUSTICE SOCIETY EPIC in


JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA
TO TOUCH ANTI-MATTER MAN WAS TO RISK INSTANT DESTRUCTION!
THE MOST AWESOME DEATH-DEFYING BATTLE EVER FOUGHT!
ON SALE JULY 26th

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor: "Death Knocks Three Times," in *Batman* 180, is unequivocably *the best Batman tale* since the *new look* began two years (has it been that long!) ago. All who partook in bringing this story to the newsstands undoubtedly put their whole heart and soul into the project; and this product does indeed reveal it. It's a minor *Batman* masterpiece.

Beginning with first things first, we have the cover. *Beautiful!* Simple as that—*beautiful!* Gil Kane and Murphy Anderson have drawn what to my mind is the finest *Batman* cover since "The Castle With Wall-to-Wall Danger," and that cover I sincerely believe was "un-toppable!" That body of *Robin* hung motionless in the foreground, with the two struggling figures of *Batman* and *Death-Man* in the background, and the entire scene drenched in a pouring thunderstorm straight out of Boris Karloff, captures perfectly the aspect of *Batman* which has been lost for so many years—*mystery!*

As for the inside artwork, by Bob Kane and Joe Giella, it, too, is good. Bob Kane seems to have taken this story to heart and it really shows in the artwork; never has Kane drawn such free, litheful figures since the very old days.

Plot-wise the issue was great. At last we have a completely evil villain who kills, and kills in cold blood! This is something else the new *Batman* hasn't seen for ages; and it's so very good to see the veteran crime-fighter in his old element again. The story was so good, I'll even overlook those sequences wherein *Batman* and *Robin* miraculously battle ten armed villains and come out victorious without a scratch on our favorite heroes. The climax was absolutely stunning: the foreboding atmosphere of a graveyard, an exploding thunderstorm, and a classic death for a classic villain.

If I were to name the single most magnificent facet of this entire issue, I would have to dwell on this one point: finally someone is beginning to breathe life into *Batman;* our hero is beginning to be a real, live person with human weaknesses. He isn't entirely indestructible any longer. Bruce's nightmares of *Death-Man, Batman's* getting shot and almost dying at the hands of a villain and being saved only by a chance lightning bolt, and even the totally inane introduction of women, are all steps in the right direction. Keep it up. —Paul Seydor, Imperial, Pa.

(How good it is to hear again from Paul Seydor—one of our demon correspondents of yesteryear! As he said in another part of his long letter, he just *had* to "take a breather" from his college studies to write us again! More—more—more—Paul! —Editor)

* * *

Dear Editor: I am sorry, but I just was not impressed by "Death Knocks Three Times." The story was, at times, hardly believable, and was, all of the time, most objectionable.

The idea of *Batman,* who has fought countless villains, being so severely affected by the death of one of his macabre foes is simply ridiculous. To have nightmares about him is the height of absurdity. I could understand nightmares about the *Joker,* whom he has fought in countless battles over many years. But why in the world should he be "haunted" by the ghost of a mad kook who skin-grafted a spooky costume to his body and affected an insane, mocking laugh? *Batman* is tough. He is no novice to a career which often includes deaths. He can accept death! —Irene Vartanoff, Bethesda, Md.

(But not more than *once*—as contrasted to *Death-Man's*—three times. And *that* makes a difference! —Editor)

* * *

Dear Editor: Issue 180 of *Batman* was the swellest I have ever read—its subtle character sketches being finely drawn in a pure Voltarian style. *Batman* and *Robin* were superb. *Robin's* mention of *Superman* was an excellent use of the technique of allusion, bringing to mind the gallant defenders of both human dignity and the pursuit of happiness. The message of the story is clearly "Persecution doesn't pay!"

Death-Man was a memorable villain and ranks with the greatest villains of history (though short-lived, so to speak). I offer to you, sir, my fondest congratulations upon this masterpiece of contemporary literature.

I, as well as my neighbors, thought it should be included in the *Best Short Stories* anthology for 1966. —Ruth Keady, Walpole, Mass.

(We'll go along with that judgment—except for the fact that "Death Knocks Three Times" happened to be a *novel!* —Editor)

* * *

Dear Editor: I've really got to hand it to you, and Bob Kane, and whoever else was in on "Death Knocks Three Times!" I don't think I've ever said this of any "new look" *Batman* story, but this is a *batmasterpiece.*

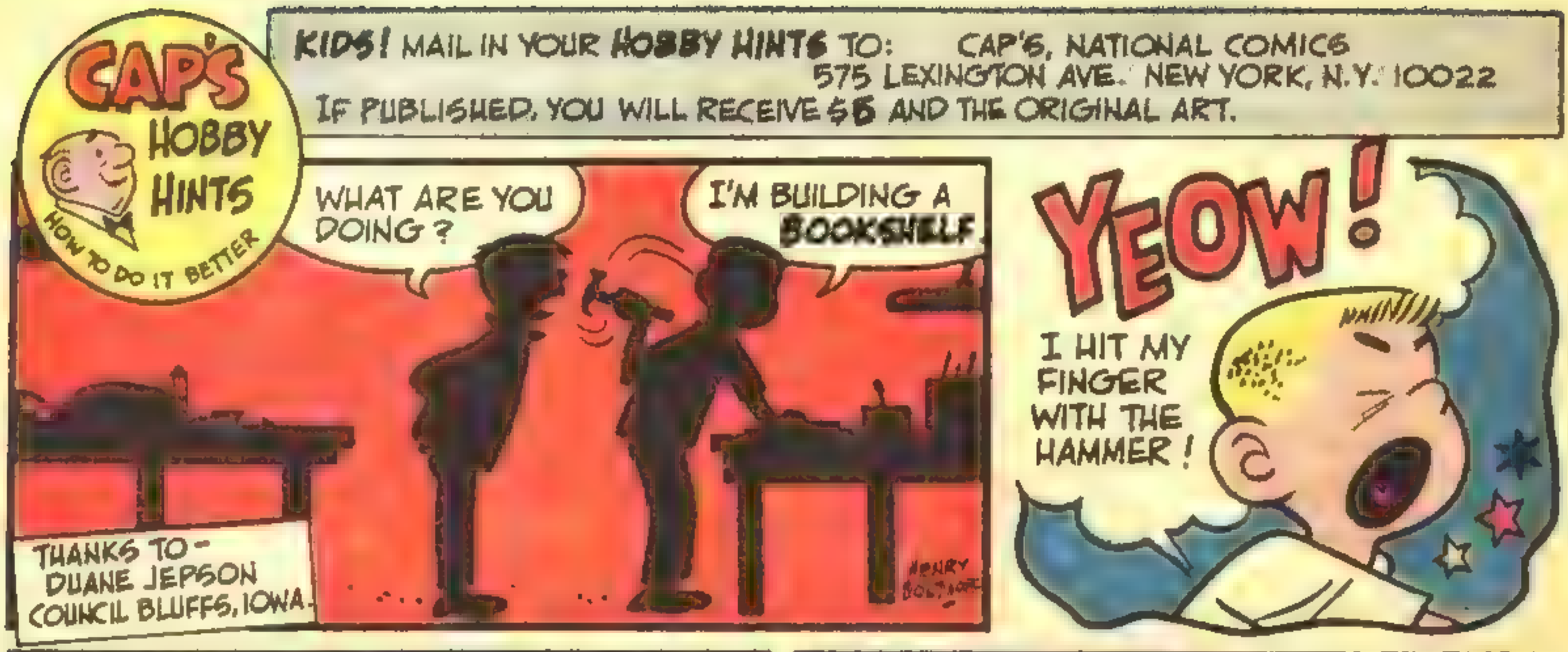
I could say many more particular things I liked: for instance, the use of atmosphere, which I demand in almost all *Batman* stories, the closeness to resemblance of reality (no far-out jazz), the eerie overtones, the suspense, and the wisecracks (e.g. "Looks like our slugs scared the cape off *Batman!*"). The story was great, anyway, despite the gaudy cover.

Here's a novel suggestion. I think this story should be made into a movie, with the regular TV cast and either Boris Karloff or Vincent Price as *Death-Man.* Think of the great entertainment it would be! Think of how it will deter kids from seeing grade Z pix! (And mainly, think of the dough!) The only bad part in it for me will probably be that they won't let me do the screenplay. Oh, well, *c'est la vie!*

Thanks, as the comics fans say, for a great mag. —Stephen Harrell, Independence, Mo.

(As of this writing, a *Batman* movie is indeed in the works—and while it is not the *Death-Man* story, perhaps some enterprising movie producer will get ideas from your suggestion! —Editor)

Address all communications regarding this magazine to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York,10022. Please send communications concerning the *Batman-TV* show directly to your local TV station!


CAP'S HOBBY HINTS
HOW TO DO IT BETTER
KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS 575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE $5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M BUILDING A BOOKSHELF
THANKS TO - DUANE JEPSON COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
YEOW!
I HIT MY FINGER WITH THE HAMMER!
HENRY BOLTINOFF
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO PREVENT THAT. I'LL TAKE OUT MY POCKET COMB!
YOUR POCKET COMB?
SURE! LOOK HOW NEAT IT HOLDS THE NAIL WHILE I HAMMER!

CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, it's time to check the currents and fish for the best in comic-mag adventure, fantasy and laughs. There are some really big ones on the way from DC . . . so watch for 'em and don't let these beauties get away!

It's a great DOUBLE-PLAY when SUPERMAN teams up with SUPER-CLARK KENT! How can both the MAN OF STEEL'S identities exist side by side? And which is the evil one pulling a DOUBLE-CROSS? September ACTION, No. 341, on sale July 28.

Here comes DR. REGULUS, the mad master of sun power, menacing Earth and the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! And the one LEGIONNAIRE who can defeat him has AMNESIA and DISAPPEARS! September ADVENTURE, No. 348, on sale July 28.

In the September DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 355, BATMAN clashes with his latest nemesis—the HOODED HANGMAN—and finds his life literally hanging by a thread! HOLY GALLOWS! Get this terrific issue when it goes on sale July 28!

They were just bundles of straw, but they threatened deadly destruction when they became "THE LIVING SCARECROWS!" Also "FREAK ISLAND" and "THE MAN WITH THE VOICE OF DOOM!" September STRANGE ADVENTURES, No. 192, on sale July 28.

Combat wasn't tough enough to kill either SGT. ROCK of EASY COMPANY or his enemy counterpart—so they staged a private duel—to the death—in "A SLUG FOR A SERGEANT!" October OUR ARMY AT WAR, No. 172, on sale August 2.

SUPERMAN fights a battle royal against the ELEMENT ENEMIES . . . creatures of EARTH, AIR, FIRE and WATER . . . in the October issue of his mag, No. 190. And what's more, he's lost HALF his super-power! It's on sale August 2.

In the October WONDER WOMAN, No. 165, the Amazon's most colorful foe seems torn from the headlines themselves! It's "PERILS OF THE PAPER-MAN!" Plus a bonus thriller—"THE 3 FANTASTIC FACES OF WONDER WOMAN!" On sale August 2.

The crafty cutie you love to hate is back to plague the BLACKHAWKS. It's QUEEN KILLER SHARK with a way-out scheme to wipe out the MAGNIFICENT 7, in the October BLACKHAWK, No. 225, on sale August 4.

The PANTHERS were a cool gang of cats out to make a killing in gems—till the WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO turned the heat on them with his fists! "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST-GANG"—November ATOM, No. 27, on sale August 4.

IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT ROBIN GETS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER FOR AN ABSENT BATMAN, BUT WHEN HIS MENTOR LEAVES HIM ON HIS OWN, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT--CHARGED WITH ELECTRIC EXCITEMENT TO SHOW HIS STUFF--TAKES OFF ON A RIOTOUS RIDE THAT TURNS INTO--

The BOY WONDER'S BOO-BOO PATROL!

BATMAN

Starring ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

WHEN BATMAN LEFT ME ON MY OWN--I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE OUT SAVING VILANCE--TV'S FAMOUS STUNT GIRL--FROM THESE TRAPS A KILLER HAS SET FOR HER!

BOB KANE

IN THE **BATCAVE**, JUST BEFORE A ROUTINE NIGHT PATROL OF **GOTHAM CITY**...

YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN TONIGHT, **ROBIN!** STAY ALERT! KEEP ON YOUR TOES! TAKE NO UNNECESSARY CHANCES!

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THE LECTURE BIT? AND WHY AREN'T YOU IN YOUR **BATMAN** COSTUME?

BECAUSE AS **BRUCE WAYNE**--HEAD OF THE **ALFRED MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**--I MUST ATTEND A SCIENCE CONVENTION IN **FEDERAL CITY!** THIS MEANS YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN TONIGHT AND THE NEXT COUPLE OF NIGHTS!

THAT SUITS ME! I GET TO DO THE SOLO GO-GO ROUTINE AGAIN!

YOU HAVE TO BE OUR EYES AND EARS--ACT FOR BOTH OF US!

JUST CALL ME **WARY HARRY!** NOBODY PULLS ANY WOOL OVER MY PEEPERS!

AND SO WITH HIS HEART THUMPING EXCITEDLY, EAGER TO DO A FLAWLESS JOB--THE **TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT** DRIVES OUT ALONG **GOTHAM PARK** IN THE SUMMER TWILIGHT...

THE ACTION'S BREAKING OUT! THE REAR WHEEL ON THAT GIRL'S MOTORCYCLE IS COMING LOOSE--SHE'S BEING THROWN OFF--!

HIS FOOT HITS THE ACCELERATOR! A POWERFUL MOTOR ROARS WITH ANIMAL-LIKE FURY AS THE **BATMOBILE** SPURTS FORWARD...

GOT TO TURN HER FALL INTO A HAPPY LANDING!

RRRIZZMM

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE--!

BUT...THIS IS NO GRATEFUL, FRIGHTENED CHICK **ROBIN** HAS LATCHED ONTO...

YOU--YOU BLUNDERING FOOL! YOU RUINED A "TAKE" FOR MY **STUNT GIRL TV SHOW!**

HUM? OH, NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU-- **VIOLA LANCE--**

CUT! **CUT!**

WHEN THE SURPRISED **BOY WONDER** BRAKES TO A STOP...

BECAUSE YOU DECIDED TO PLAY HERO, WE'VE GOT TO RE-SHOOT THAT STUNT-SCENE! I PULLED A SWITCH TO **MAKE** THE REAR WHEEL COME OFF AND I WAS PREPARED TO HANDLE MY FALL WITHOUT HARM!

OH, BROTHERRR! I GAVE IT THE ROYAL SNAFU TREATMENT, DIDN'T I?

WITHIN MOMENTS, **ROBIN** IS SURROUNDED BY A **TV** CREW AND ITS RANTING DIRECTOR...

WHERE'S **BATMAN,** JUNIOR? DOES HE KNOW YOU'RE OUT ALONE?

I WANTED TO MAKE GOOD IN A BIG WAY--BUT I POPPED THE GOOF! NO WONDER THE DIRECTOR'S GIVING ME THE NEEDLE!

CRESTFALLEN, HE COVERS HIS EMBARRASSMENT BY LIFTING THE FALLEN MOTORCYCLE WHEEL...

YOU JUMPED THE GUN, VI! YOU SHOULD HAVE RIDDEN ON ANOTHER 50 FEET BEFORE YOU FREED THE WHEEL!

LEAST I CAN DO IS PUT THIS BACK IN PLACE... OH! OH!

AN AIR-BLISTER ON THIS TIRE! IF VI HAD GONE ANOTHER *50 FEET*, THIS TIRE WOULD HAVE BLOWN OUT AND DUMPED HER WHEN SHE WASN'T EXPECTING IT! SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN-- SERIOUSLY HURT-- EVEN **KILLED!**

MAYBE I GOOFED--AND THEN AGAIN MAYBE I DIDN'T! IN WHICH CASE, SOMEBODY'S GOT IT IN FOR VI LANCE! BUT WHO-- WHY? I BETTER DO SOME LEG-WORK ON THIS FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING!

ANXIOUS TO PROVE HIMSELF WORTHY OF HIS MENTOR, THE *BOY WONDER* DOES HIS INVESTIGATING IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY OF DICK GRAYSON...

MY HUNCH PAID OFF! I JUST LEARNED THAT THE *TV* SHOW'S DIRECTOR-- BILL PORTER-- PERSONALLY INSURED VI LANCE'S LIFE FOR ONE MILLION DOLLARS UNTIL THE ***STUNT GIRL*** SERIES IS COMPLETED! IF VI DIES--PORTER CASHES IN!

GOTHAM INSURANCE COMPANY

LATER THAT NIGHT, AS THE ***STUNT GIRL TV*** CREW IS TAPING ANOTHER EPISODE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF PROP BUILDINGS...

VI IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE A "BALLOON JUMP" OVER THE BLAZING BUILDING--AND SNATCH UP THAT DUMMY REPRESENTING A MAN! NOBODY KNOWS I'M HERE, SO I CAN KEEP A "PRIVATE EYE" ON THINGS!

"SHE'S RIGHT OVER THE BURNING BUILDING NOW AND--***HOLY CALIBER!*** PORTER'S SHOOTING AT HER BALLOON!"...

"HIS BULLET WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE BALLOON! VI'S FALLING ONTO THE ROOFTOP..."

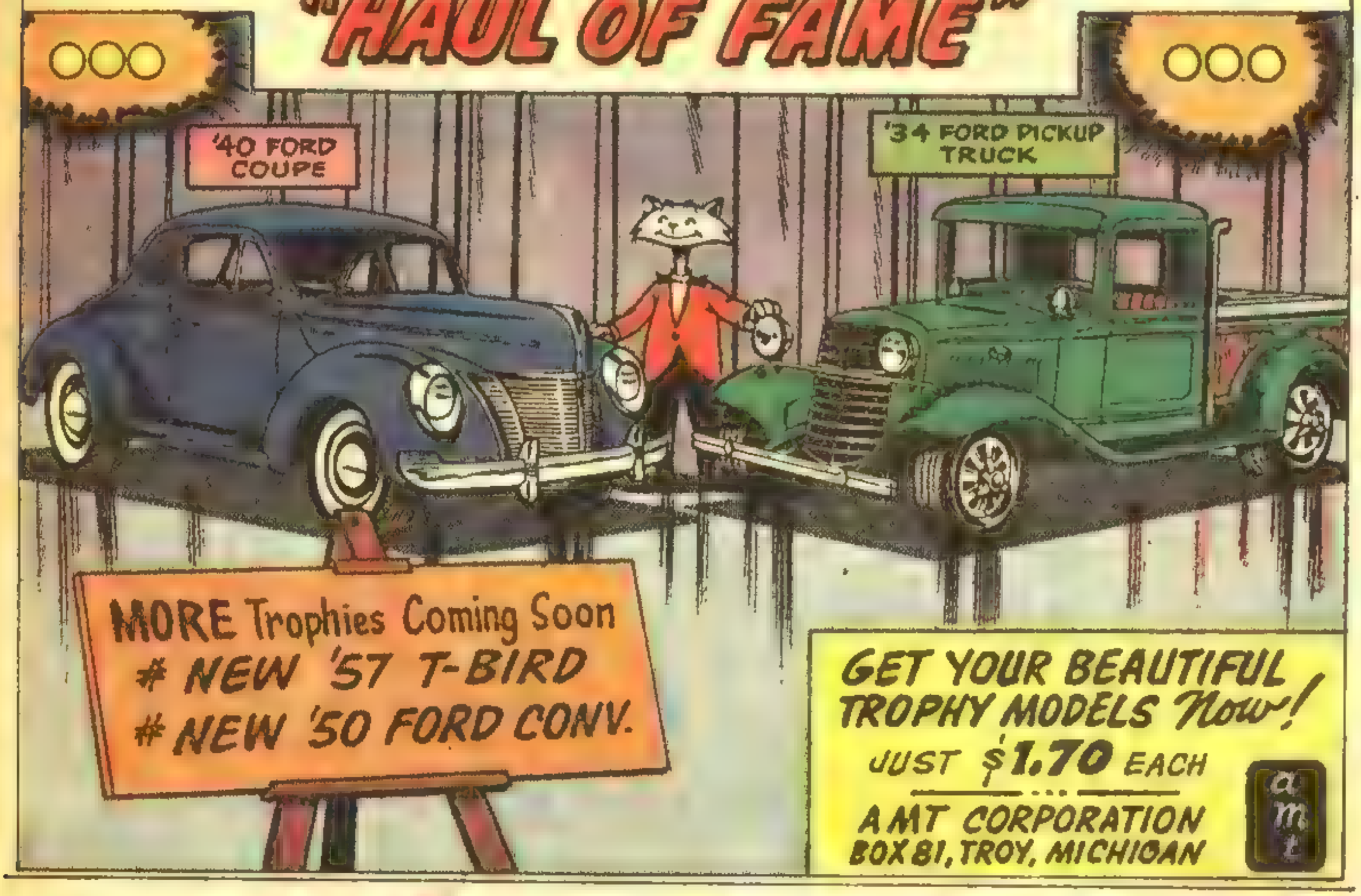
"PORTER IS FIRING HIS GUN--TO SIGNAL VI TO BEGIN HER RESCUE--AND THERE SHE GOES..."

KOFF! KOFF! THAT SMOKE-- CHOKING ME-- CAN'T BRACE MYSELF FOR THE FALL--!

BLAM!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

The KAT visits AMT'S new trophy "HAUL OF FAME"



MAHARAJAHS... MOBSTERS... MASTERMINDS...

They ALL go WILD over LOIS LANE in this GIANT COLLECTION of her GREATEST ROMANCES!

You'll meet...
MENTAL MAN, WHO USED HIS SUPER-POWERS TO WIN HER...
The SOLDIER SUITOR, WHO WENT A.W.O.L. FOR HER...
The ROYAL ROMEO, WHO ACCOMPLISHES MIRACLES FOR HER—
And SUPERMAN HIMSELF, LEADING HER TO THE altar!

Plus LEX LUTHOR, CLARK KENT AND OTHERS, IN

ON SALE JULY 12th

FROM THE EDGE OF A NEARBY PROP BUILDING ROOF, THE *BOY WONDER* SENDS HIS *SUCTION CUPPED BAT ROPE* SNAKING OUTWARD...

I CAUGHT PORTER RED-HANDED! HE PUT HER IN THAT FIERY TRAP--BUT I'LL DO THE RESCUE BIT--AND GET HER OUT!

SWINGING OUT ABOVE THE DIZZYING HEIGHTS, HE HURTLES TOWARD THE SMOKE-CHOKED GIRL...

SPOTTING THAT BLISTERED TIRE *BURE* LED TO SOME LIFE-SAVING DEVELOPMENTS! *BATMAN* WILL BE PROUD OF ME!

TAKE IT EASY, VI! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

THANKS TO MY *UTILITY BELT*, I CAN USE A *CARBON DIOXIDE SPRAY* TO SMOTHER THE WORST OF THE FLAMES!

SWINGING OVER THE ROOF EDGE, HAND-OVER-HAND HE MOVES DOWN THE FACE OF THE BURNING BUILDING...

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE CHOKING SMOKE, I'D HAVE TIMED MY FALL BETTER! BUT THE COLLAPSING BALLOON CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE!

SSSSHHHT

;COUGH; *ROBIN!* I MUST SAY ;COUGH; YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO SHOW UP ;COUGH; IN THE NICK OF TIME...

WHEN THEY SAFELY REACH THE GROUND...

GREAT WORK, **ROBIN**! YOU MADE UP FOR THE MOTORCYCLE BOO-BOO THIS TIME!

VI--WHAT WENT WRONG?

AS IF PORTER DOESN'T KNOW! HE'S SURE PUTTING UP A GOOD ACT! BUT THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME TO CHARGE HIM WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER...

?

ROBIN--WILL YOU TAKE VI HOME? I'LL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS I CLEAR UP SOME THINGS HERE--

YES, **ROBIN**--PLEASE DO! I'M A LITTLE SHOOK UP BY WHAT HAPPENED!

HALF AN HOUR LATER, OUTSIDE VI'S APARTMENT...

HERE WE ARE--SAFE AND SOUND!

OH, BEFORE I GO IN--I HAVE TO PICK UP SOMETHING IN THE DRUG STORE ACROSS THE STREET!

WAIT--I'LL GO WITH YOU...

NO, **ROBIN**... NO NEED TO BOTHER! YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME! THANKS JUST THE SAME!

CAR TIRES SCREECH IN THE NIGHT--AS A CAR ROUNDS A CORNER AND BARRELS STRAIGHT FOR **STUNT GIRL**...

JUMP, VI--**JUMP**!!

SCREECH!

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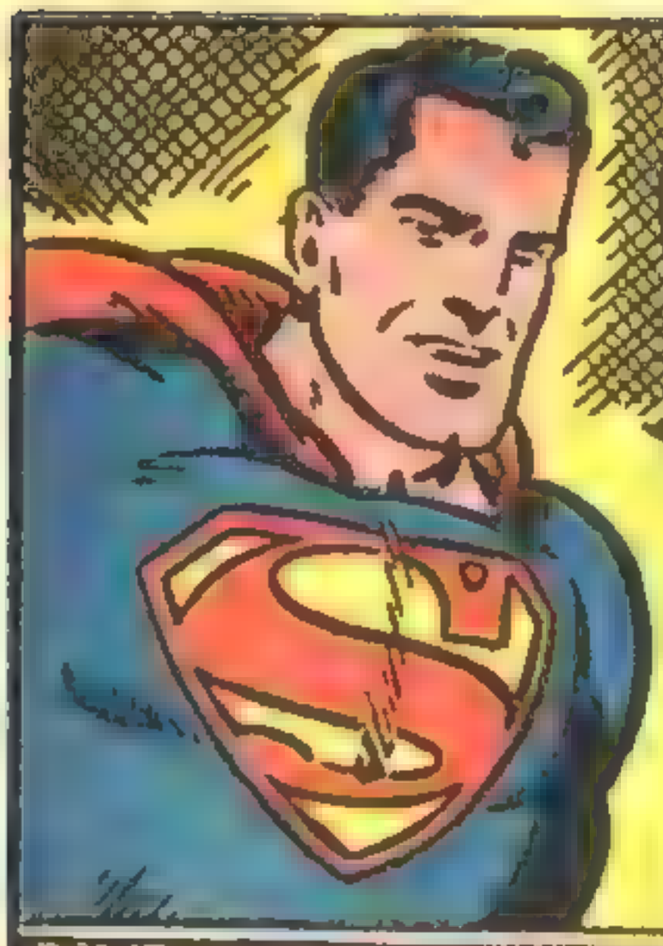

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DEATH LOOMS BIG AND BRIGHT BEFORE THE BEMUSED GIRL AS THE RUSHING METAL MONSTER ROARS DOWN ON HER...

SHE CAN HANDLE HER STUNTS WHEN SHE'S PREPARED FOR THEM -- BUT THIS ONE'S PARALYZED HER WITH FRIGHT!

PORTER MANEUVERED HER HERE--TO SET HER UP FOR THE KILL!

THE CAR VEERS OUT OF CONTROL-- CRASHES AGAINST A BUILDING WALL...

CRASH!

WHAT BLASTED LUCK TO RUN INTO *ROBIN* ON OUR GETAWAY!

HE'S GOT SOME SORT OF SIXTH SENSE! I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM TO KNOW WE JUST PULLED A JEWEL ROBBERY!

HE KNOWS... ALL RIGHT! HE'S COMING AT US!

I'M TAKING YOU BOTH IN FOR-- ATTEMPTED MURDER!

DSC

TWO GUNS APPEAR AND BLAST AWAY...

YOU CAN'T PIN A MURDER RAP ON US, *ROBIN*-- WE WERE ONLY MAKING A ROBBERY GETAWAY!

YOU'RE *DEAD WRONG*-- AND THAT'S THE WAY YOU'LL END UP IF YOU TANGLE WITH US!

BEHIND THE STREET-CLEANING TRUCK, ROBIN'S HAND CLOSES OVER A LEVER...

WHEN I GRAB 'EM, I'LL HAVE THE PROOF I NEED THAT PORTER HIRED 'EM TO RUN DOWN STUNT GIRL!

TWIN BRUSHES DIG INTO A PILE OF DIRT AND DEBRIS--SHOWERING IT OVER THE GUNMEN...

THROUGH THE SCREEN OF DUST AND HAZE COMES A SOLID FIST...

LAY OFF, ROBIN--WE'LL LET YOU HAVE THE JEWELRY STORE LOOT!

POW!

IN THE THICK HAZE, A GUN BLASTS...

BLAM!

HIS GUN-SHOT TIPPED ME OFF WHERE HE WAS!

A POWERFUL BODY TENSES--AND THE SECOND HOOD IS HEAVED UP INTO THE AIR...

AS ROBIN STANDS OVER THE KAYOED CROOKS...

THEY WERE TELLING THE TRUTH! BUT--BUT IF I WAS WRONG ABOUT THEM--I'M STILL RIGHT ABOUT BILL PORTER!

HONEY, I JUST GOT HERE! WHAT HAPPENED?

WATCH HIM, VI! HE'S TRIED TO KILL YOU TWICE TO GET THAT MILLION DOLLARS YOU'RE INSURED FOR!

BILL? BUT BILL AND I LOVE EACH OTHER! WE'RE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED! HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY--

EVEN ASSUMING THE TIRE BLISTER WAS AN ACCIDENT--A COINCIDENCE--WHAT ABOUT THAT SHOT HE FIRED AT THE BALLOON, HURLING YOU ONTO THE ROOF OF THE BURNING BUILDING?

ROBIN, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! NOT ONLY DID IT GO OFF BY ACCIDENT--BUT THE GUN ONLY FIRED BLANKS! SOMETHING ELSE MUST HAVE PUNCTURED THAT BALLOON! I INSIST WE BOTH CHECK OUT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT!

SHORTLY...

I FOUND THE BALLOON-WRECKER--THIS METEORITE! IT MUST'VE ZIPPED THROUGH THE BALLOON JUST AS YOU FIRED THE BLANK IN YOUR GUN, MR. PORTER!

I--I'VE BEEN JUMPING TO WRONG CONCLUSIONS EVER SINCE I BLUNDERED INTO THIS CASE...

OH, DON'T FEEL BADLY, ROBIN! AFTER ALL, YOU DID SAVE MY LIFE! AND AS A REWARD...

THE GOO-GOO WONDER GETS ANOTHER SURPRISE A LITTLE LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...

HI, ROBIN! I GOT HOME EARLY AND--SAYY! YOU LOOK AS IF YOU SWALLOWED A LEMON! WHAT GIVES?

BATMAN--EVER SINCE YOU LEFT, I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN A COMEDY OF ERRORS! I TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE GOOD ON MY OWN--I COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT...

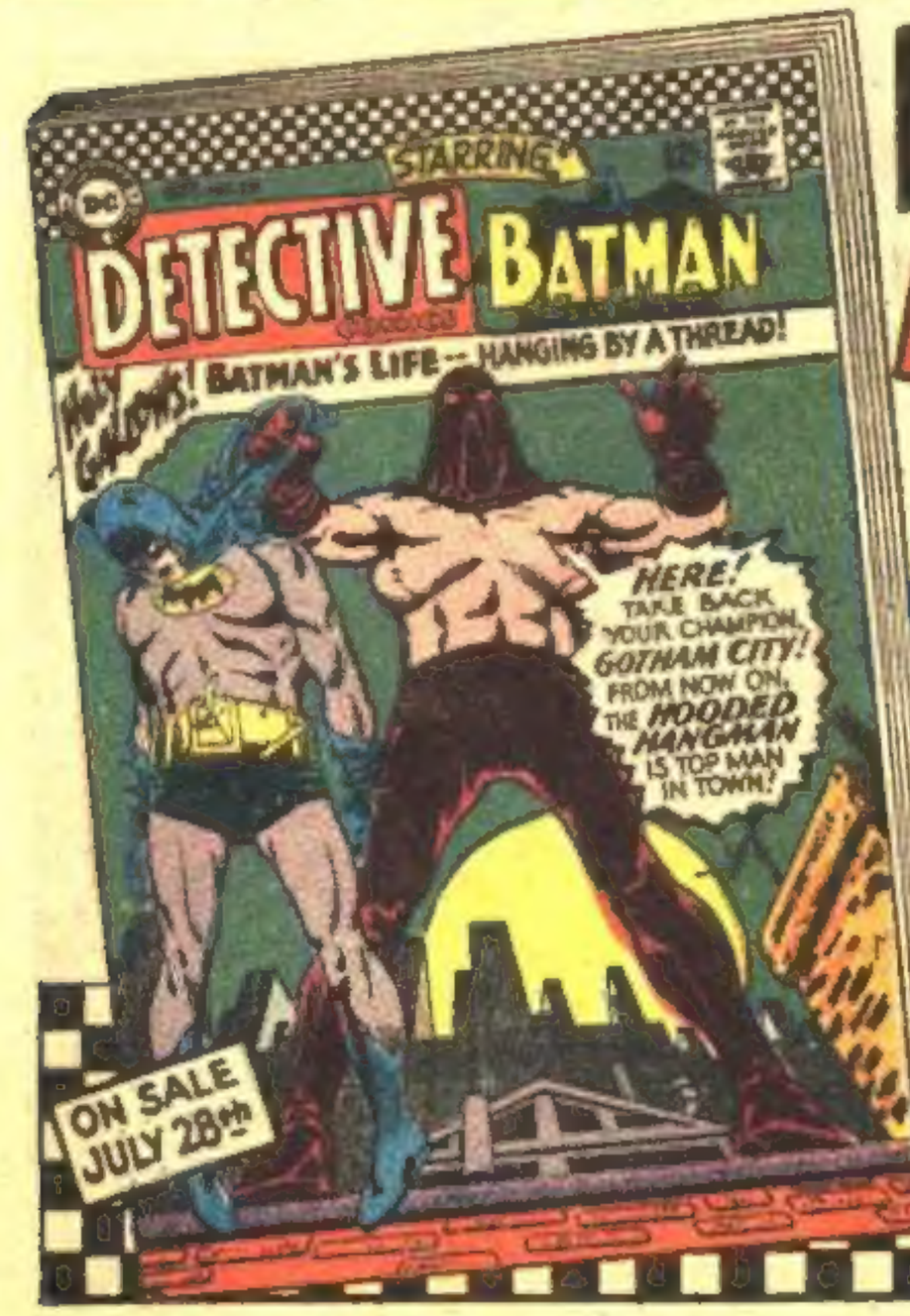
THAT WAS YOUR TROUBLE! YOU WERE SO KEYED UP--SO ANXIOUS NOT TO MAKE A MISTAKE--YOUR VERY ANXIETY MADE YOU "SEE THINGS" IN THE WRONG PERSPECTIVE! THOUGH THE LEAD-IN WAS WRONG--THE OUTCOME WAS RIGHT! YOU WERE ON HAND TO SAVE VI LANCE'S LIFE AND CAPTURE THOSE JEWEL THIEVES!

YOU JUST DIDN'T CARRY YOUR INVESTIGATION FAR ENOUGH--OR YOU'D HAVE DISCOVERED STUNT GIRL WAS ENGAGED TO MARRY HER DIRECTOR! Hmmm! I SEE VI WAS PRETTY HAPPY ABOUT THE ROLE YOU PLAYED--

HUM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MISTAKES LIKE THAT SHOULD HAPPEN TO ALL OF US, ROBIN!

THE END


STARRING
DETECTIVE BATMAN
BATMAN'S LIFE -- HANGING BY A THREAD!
HERE! TAKE BACK YOUR CHAMPION, GOTHAM CITY! FROM NOW ON, THE HOODED MANGMAN IS TOP MAN IN TOWN!
ON SALE JULY 28th

For the MOST in THRILLS...

GO-GO-GO

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